

Message Text

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ORIGIN H-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-04 /008 R

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DRAFTED BY H: NMCDONNELL

APPROVED BY H: ELKRIZEK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

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CODEL PERCY

FOL REPEAT CAPE TOWN 0423 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO PRETORIA
APR 14

QTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA (CODEL PERCY), TECN, SF

SUBJ: CODEL PERCY: VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA ATOMIC ENERGY
INSTALLATION AT PELINDEBA

1. FIRST ITEM OF CODEL'S VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA WILL BE VISIT
UNDER SAG AUSPICES TO SOUTH AFRICA ATOMIC ENERGY BOARD (SAAEB)
AT PELINDABA, ABOUT 20 MILES WEST OF PRETORIA. SINCE
EMBASSY WILL NOT HAVE OPPORTUNITY BRIEF CODEL BEFORE THIS
ASPECT OF VISIT, BELIEVE CODEL SHOULD HAVE FOLLOWING
BACKGROUND INFORMATION BEFORE ARRIVAL.

2. SAAEB, UNDER PRESIDENCY OF DR. A.J. ROUX, HAS BEEN ACTIVE
IN NUCLEAR RESEARCH AND STATES IT HAS DEVELOPED ITS OWN STILL
SECRET, URANIUM ENRICHMENT PROCESS. PROCESS IS NOW
IN PILOT PLANT STAGE BEING CARRIED OUT BY SA URANIUM
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ENRICHMENT CORPORATION (CHAired BY DR. ROUX).

3. ESPECIALLY AS CONSEQUENCES THESE NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES, SAG HAS BEEN UNDER PRESSURE TO ADHERE TO NPT, BUT HAS NOT DONE SO ACCORDING TO THEIR STATEMENTS TO USG BECAUSE IT FEARS IAEA INSPECTION WOULD JEOPARDIZE SECRECY THEIR ENRICHMENT PROCESS. NEVERTHELESS USG HAS MANY TIMES URGED ADHERENCE.

4. PRESIDENT OF SAAEB HAS FREQUENTLY STATED THAT HE WOULD RECOMMEND SAG ADHERENCE TO CABINET IF SECRECY COULD BE ASSURED. TO THIS END USG WILL BE PROVIDING CERTAIN RECENT TECHNICAL PAPERS ON ENRICHMENT PLANT SAFEGUARDS WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED TO DR. ROUX WHEN RECEIVED.
BOWDLER

UNQTE
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, ENERGY, SCIENTIFIC VISITS, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE090205
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NMCDONNELL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760142-0101
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760461/aaaabzpc.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <30 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL PERCY: VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA ATOMIC ENERGY INSTALLATION AT PELINDEBA
TAGS: OTRA, TECH, SF, (PERCY)
To: DAR ES SALAAM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006